

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6310

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: CABINET SOUNDINGS

1. JUDGING BY EMBASSY SOUNDINGS WITH ELEMENTS IN "TACITO" AND OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPS BEHIND FORMATION OF "PARTIDO POPULAR," SUAREZ IS HAVING TROUBLE MAKING A CONVINCING ENOUGH CASE TO ELICIT PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEMBERS IN GOVT BEING FORMED. ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, WHOM PRESS HAS SPECULATED AS POSSIBLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, TOLD EMBOFF THAT SUAREZ HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH IN MAKING CONCESSIONS TO "PARTIDO POPULAR" ABOUT GOVT'S PROGRAM. FAILING AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRAM, HE AND HIS COLLABORATOR'S
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COULD NOT ACCEPT PORTFOLIOS. ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA ADDED

THAT HIS GROUP BELIEVED THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE AWAY FROM PERSONALITIES AND TOWARDS MODALITIES BASED ON POLITICAL PARTIES CONSISTENT WITH A GENUINE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. HIS POSITION, HE SAID, IS CONSISTENT WITH TH "PARTIDO POPULAR'S" SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION JULY 6 FOR RECOGNITION AS A POLITICAL PARTY AND ITS STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES. ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA LEFT THE DOOR SOMEWHAT AJAR ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLABORATING WITH THE GOVT IF THE "PARTIDO POPULAR" OBTAINED MORE CONCESSIONS.

2. SEPARATELY, PIO CABANILLAS, MUCH INVOLVED IN THESE MANEUVERINGS, SAID MUCH THE SAME THING TO EMBOFF, INDICATING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR SUAREZ TO GET SOME OF THE PEOPLE HE WANTED INTO THE CABINET BECAUSE THERE WAS A FEELING THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE A LONG LASTING ONE. AND EVEN THOUGH SUAREZ PROBABLY HAD THE BEST OF INTENTIONS, THERE WAS DOUBT ABOUT THAT AS WELL. CABANILLAS WAS LEAVING FOR GALICIA (SO REPORTEDLY IS FRAGA) SINCE IT SEEMED BEST TO ABSENT HIMSELF BRIEFLY FROM MADRID.

3. ORTI BORDAS, AN INFLUENTIAL CENTRIST CORTES DEPUTY WHO HAS BEEN ON DRAFTING COMMITTEE IN NATIONAL COUNCIL TO REVISE CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT SUAREZ WAS INDEED HAVING PROBLEMS IN FORMING CABINET, HE CONFIRMED THAT THE TRIGGER WHICH UNLEASHED CRISIS WAS AREILZA'S "IRREVOCABLE DECISION" TO LEAVE GOVT. AREILZA'S DECISION HAS CREATED TENSION WITHIN "PARTIDO POPULAR" AND ITS CONSTITUENT GROUP "TACITO". SOME CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS LIKE ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, HE THOUGHT, WOULD NOT COLLABORATE WITH GOVT; OTHERS LIKE MARCELINO OREJA ARE LESS CONSTRAINED BY GROUP OR PARTY LOYALTIES. PEOPLE AROUND SUAREZ HOWEVER, DON'T WANT TO REPEAT THE EXPERIENCE OF HAVING "TACITO" MEMBERS IN KEY SECOND ECHELON POSITIONS, WHILE "TACITO" ISSUES STATEMENTS CRITICIZING THE GOVT. SUAREZ WANTS THEM FULLY IN THE GAME. (ORTI IS TALKING ABOUT ALFONSO OSORIO, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT AND FOUNDER OF "TACITO", WHO IS ACTING AS SUAREZ' CLOSEST COLLABORATOR.)

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ORTI SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED -- CONTRARY TO PRESS RUMORS -- BY SUAREZ FOR A CABINET POST. HE BELIEVES THAT AREILZA, FRAGA, AND PIO CABANILLAS WILL SET UP A RIGHT-OF-CENTER PARTY.

STABLER

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